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SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST - 3.00PM

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Good afternoon to everyone and I hope you are all well and enjoying your summer Rugby League.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park, the home of Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Football club, Barrow Raiders, their directors, their backroom staff, coach Paul Crarey, players and of course their guests and spectators.

We hope you have a good afternoon at the Olympic Legacy park, this is a must win for both teams, Barrow to stave off relegation and us for a playoff position. Last week we had a tight game against Halifax and came away with two welcome points where as Barrow lost to a very good Bradford Bulls side.

We are hoping for a third win against the Raiders, but it will not be easy as they are a strong physical side. Hoping that our players stay injury free before our big game at Wembley in just under a week's time.

We have hit some great form since our excellent win in the semi-final of the 1895 Cup with back-to-back victories against some tough opposition in the form of Widnes and Halifax. Let's hope we can continue that today as we head into next week's Cup Final.

Victory for ourselves will keep our slim top 5 play off hopes alive and what a fantastic turnaround compared to last season it has been.

Last year we were in the relegation fight which, if we win today and Widnes pick up points elsewhere could mean relegation for our hosts.



It is not a situation I wish upon any fellow club, it's stressful for everyone involved but that's the nature of sport.

On another note I hope the weather stays fine for what should be an entertaining game.

Tickets for Wembley are available from the club for the next couple of days only and may I advise all our spectators to get your tickets from the club as early

as possible to avoid disappointment

I would like to request that all our supporters remind all the supporters who since we have been out of the City have stopped attending our games that we need them back and we would love to see them all back supporting and cheering on the Eagles.

With this being our last home game of the season, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for everything they do for the club, the loyal band of spectators and if you know anyone who wishes to help, get involved or wants to come along to enjoy what is the greatest team game in the world, please encourage them!

Hopefully

May I also take this opportunity to firstly thank all our spectators who turn out in all weathers to give their support to the team and let us have a great year together both on and off the field.

Enjoy the game

Very Best Regards

Chris Noble MBE



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TUBBY TALK

Welcome back to the OLP for today's final home regular league game of the campaign.

We have picked up some valuable momentum in recent weeks, and we are obviously keen to keep that going again today with our Wembley final against Widnes to follow next weekend.

With three wins on the spin we have put ourselves in a good position to finish the campaign strongly, but we did get a little warning last weekend of what can happen if you take your foot off the gas.

I thought we were good for 65 minutes at Halifax, and we were more than good value for our strong lead. We went from a completely dominant position to hanging on a little in the end as our lead was cut to two points, but I didn't want to be too hard on the boys because at the end of the day it was a win.

We beat a good side, who finished inside the top five last season, and it maintained our good recent run of wins. It also keeps the momentum, and I think that is important with what we have ahead. I'm not thinking about Wembley yet though, we have a job to do today and the players know I won't accept any dip in form.

They will also be acutely aware that there are places up for grabs still, so standards will have to be maintained. As we stand we are looking reasonably well



on the injury front, barring the long term injured, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that remains the case because we are also aware we only have a small squad to choose from.

As always I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Barrow, and as these are my last notes, also take this final opportunity to thank you all for your magnificent support throughout the season.

I hope you've enjoyed watching us this season, and with Wembley to follow, it is nothing more than you deserve after some difficult recent seasons.

Enjoy the game.

Tubbs

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COMMERCIAL CORNER



Good afternoon and welcome back to The OLP and welcome to all the Players, Directors and Fans from Barrow Raiders.

A Big that you to Eagles Director, Adam Claydon and the team at Claydon Accountancy for their sponsorship of today's game.

Looking back to our last home game vs Widnes, I would like to thank the AMRC for their support.

Pictured is Gualberto Cigala presenting Anthony Thackeray with his Man of the match award.

So, our last home game. What a season it has been at the OLP! I would like to use my last notes of the season to thank all our sponsors and corporate partners for all their support throughout the season.

I would also like to thank all our shirt sponsors for the continued support for 2020.

Due to a slight change in kit regulations, we have some more space to sell on the shirt and shorts which we are well on with will with local businesses.

The club continues to do well commercially but we do struggle on Match Days with match sponsors. We all know the reason why. We don't have a stadium! Hopefully this is coming soon, and we can increase the revenue stream for the club and have an offering with more benefit to our sponsors.

On to the corporate offering for 2019, I would like to thank Mitch Hinchcliffe from the Library. Mitch has recently taken over The Library and has certainly gone above and beyond to ensure we can fulfil our obligations o sponsors and the RFL.

I believe the venue re opens to the public in early September and I would encourage everyone to have a look and try it one evening. The plans and menu look fantastic!

Finally, thank you to all the fans who took a personal player sponsorship. We had record take up and we will be offering all fans the same opportunity for 2020!

Thank you for all you support at home this year and as always, If you come across anyone or know of any businesses who would be both interested in a pitch board or interested in getting involved with us further on a commercial basis, please ask them to get in contact.

See you at Wembley!

Commercial Director - Mark Hannigan



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FROM THE OFFICE

The final home match of the season here at the Olympic Legacy Park is upon us.

I always take this opportunity to thank our various match day volunteers who assist me and the club rain or shine here. They may seem hollow words, but it is true, without them, we simply couldn't open the gates and host matches.

Various jobs you will see such as our excellent ticket, programme and golden gamble sellers to our car park attendants & ticket checkers but there are other jobs that perhaps go unnoticed. From ensuring the post protectors and corner flags are on the field, making sure try-scorers, substitutions etc. are announced correctly to cleaning up the site with litter picks post-match, there is a host of jobs that go on and sincerely thank all of you for the fantastic help you provide.

Turning to today's game, you will have all saw that we removed ticket charges for this afternoon's match and instead asked for donations to enter the ground.

We did this for several reasons:

1. 1895 Cup Final – Tickets, travel and other costs can be large expense for many, especially families and hope this allows those to still come today.
2. Sheffield United Match – This afternoon we clash with United's first home match back in the Premier League. Our gate will suffer because of this & sadly Barrow was reluctant to move today's game to yesterday (Saturday) due to player work commitments.
3. Olympic Legacy Park Facilities – The facilities here are still lacking, we are desperate for the construction on the stadium to begin. Today's offer will give an indication of what people see the current setup as worth.

As above, with SUFC at home today, despite today's offer I don't envisage a large crowd,

the draw of Premier League, first home match of the season and the facilities and no doubt extra activities at Bramall Lane today will be a massive draw but I hope I'm proven wrong!

Turning to next week, there has been a lot (and much more to come) work that has gone into our trip to Wembley. The rules & regulations around it have surprised me a little, a lot more to take into consideration compared to other RFL led events like the Summer Bash.

It is probably my own naivety, but ticket sales have been lower than I had hoped. The costs compared to other 'recent' finals like the Grand Finals in 2013 & 2012 are much higher for supporters but also our core fanbase has dropped significantly in that time due to the reasons we all know about. The only way that decline (which has improved slightly this year) can be resuscitated is simply for the stadium to happen. We've said before we can't market the OLP in its current guise unless it's with price-reduction marketing and that isn't cost-sustainable for the club and de-values the great product the team are putting together on the field.

The model worked against Swinton at the start of the season with our £5 advance ticket offer, nearly 1,300 here and almost 400 up on last season's crowd - hopefully today's initiatives works to similar levels. We need facilities that a stadium brings for everyone but to be able to better cater for families, disabled and elderly supporters which we can't not, no to mention our sponsors & media guests.

I am sure despite the numbers you will all do the Eagles proud at Wembley next Saturday, singing loud and enjoying the occasion to it's full. Thank you for sticking with us, lets hope for a huge win next weekend and perhaps a stadium is just around the corner...

General Manager - Liam Claffey



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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

So, we've made it to the last home game of the season!

We've still got a few games left, including the 1895 Cup final, so it's not quite all over yet, but we'll be bidding farewell to the OLP until next season after today.

I thought it would be good to take a little time this time to review not just today, but what we've got upcoming to see out 2019. Starting with today, we have 2nd from bottom Barrow coming in. I don't think they're someone we can actually take for granted.

It's always a tough battle with them and it certainly was when we sneaked out with the win by 2 points up at their place. They're a tough side, and we'll have to be showing some of that defensive power we've shown over the last two weeks again to keep them at bay.

Bring along with that some attacking flare and you would expect a win to close our home games and giving us something like an 8 and 5 record at home this season.

All our concentration is on Barrow today, but I'm sure some of you are wondering ahead to Wembley, followed up by Bradford and Swinton. Without a doubt Wembley will be a challenge and a great experience, whilst Bradford and Swinton will be two hard games to finish up the season.

Bradford are chasing us on the league table and Swinton are stronger than their record suggests so it'll be a challenge to finish out the season.

Plus there is still the mathematical potential that we can make the top five. All in all this means that we really have to keep the guys



mentally prepared and focussed. If some of you guys are thinking ahead to Wembley, no doubt it's in the back of the minds of some of the players so as a coaching staff we have to make sure we're focussed on taking one game at a time, managing their workload through the final weeks and finishing the season on a high.

But Barrow is our first challenge today. We're focussed on that and we want to finish on a high at

the Olympic Legacy Park!

All that's left really is to say a huge thanks to those of you who have been with us and supporting us at the OLP throughout this season and we're looking forward to seeing you back here next year!

Player Performance Manager - Simon Vardy





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GARETH WALKER



It's a huge weekend of action in both the Betfred Championship and League One, with a host of key issues ready to be settled.

The top five race in the second tier will be over if Sheffield and Bradford fail to win their respective fixtures at home to Barrow and away to Dewsbury.

There is a four-point gap between the sixth-placed Eagles and Featherstone one spot above them, and just two matches remaining after this weekend. The Bulls are a point further behind in seventh.

Rovers have a massive clash at fourth-placed York City Knights, with the winners assured of their top five spot. Toulouse and Leigh are all but mathematically there already, but finishing places could yet be decisive and they entertain Batley and Widnes respectively.

The Vikings are not yet safe from relegation courtesy of their 12-point deduction for entering administration, and with the 1895

Cup final also only a week away, face a crucial few weeks.

Kieron Purtil's side are three points above 13th placed Barrow Raiders, who must realistically win at Sheffield to keep their slim hopes of survival alive. Given that one of Barrow's remaining three fixtures is away at runaway leaders Toronto, coach Paul Crearey knows that nothing less than victory this weekend will do.

Defeat, and a Widnes win at Leigh, would condemn the Raiders to League One along with already relegated Rochdale. In the third tier it's also a big weekend for the promotion chasing clubs.

Three wins from three will assure Whitehaven of promotion as title winners, and their toughest fixture on paper is Sunday's trip to Keighley. Victory there would be a major step towards sealing top spot.

The race for play-off places behind them is now all but mathematically over, with seventh-placed London Skolars four points adrift and with two games left and over 200 points to make up on Workington.

But again places in the five-team system are heavily weighted towards finishing as high as possible, so there will still be plenty at stake over the final three weeks of the campaign. The game of the weekend sees Oldham - fresh from their thrilling win over in-form Newcastle - host Doncaster.

The Roughyeds can still catch Haven at the top should the Cumbrians slip up and Scott Naylor's side win their remaining three games. Thunder look set for the play-offs now and they take on Coventry Bears.

Come 5pm on Sunday night, the picture on all of the above issues should be a lot clearer.

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THIS IS MY Story

A couple a weeks ago Linda & I went to the Sharrow market which happens about three times a year. Dozens of stall holders come out in all weathers to sell their products.

Food, drinks, art work, crafts, pottery are bought by hundreds of people from across the city. One of the stall holders was selling her leather products, from bags to small bracelets. I saw a brown leather wrist band with the words 'This is my Story' inscribed on. It got me thinking of some work I had been asked to do recently in which I had to write down my major life events which have had positive and negative effect on my life. So I bought the wrist band to remind me that my story is valid.

I love what Philip Pullman said about stories: "After nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the things we need most in the world."

The more I spend time with people and hear their story the more I realise that everyone's story is valid and needs to be heard as this can and will help others in their time of need. "Your heartache is someone else's hope. If you make it through, somebody else is going to make it through. Tell your story."

It can take a lot of courage to share your story but as you do, it could well be the story that someone else is waiting to hear, which could bring hope into their heart and mind.

"Tell the story of the mountain you climbed.

Your words could become a page in someone else's survival guide," said Morgan Nichols.

I think this is one of the reason I love to read biographies or auto-biographies: to learn how various people have experienced the good, bad & ugly and still have managed to achieve something in and with their lives. I fondly remember listening to my Gran & Grandad retell stories with other family members of their childhood, family and their early married life; and their stories of two of their children's experiences in the Second World War, sometimes with tears, including the amazing story of their oldest son shot down in a plane over enemy lines and being told that he was missing presumed dead. Three months later my Uncle turned up at my Gran's house alive and kicking. He had managed to jump out the plane before it crashed, but during his escape his head was hit on the back wing and when he landed broke both legs. He was found unconscious by two nuns and taken into a convent and looked after for three months until he recovered.

"Tears are words that need to be written" Paul Coelho said. No doubt many tears were shed by my Gran & Grandad, family and friends during those three months and later during the numerous retellings of the story. Telling your story can help others. We all have a different life story and they all need to be heard.

Chaplain - Baz Gascoyne



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Greg Burns



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GREG BURNS

DF: Greg, we come into today's game with three consecutive wins in all competitions under our belt. That must give us confidence?

GB: Yeah we have hit a bit of a streak again. We have a bit more of a buzz about us in the backend of the season so fingers crossed we can take that into today and then through the rest of the year too.

DF: Halifax is always a tough place to go, so to get a victory there, albeit in what ended up a tight match, must have pleased everyone who played?

GB: We were pretty happy as Halifax is a tough place to go, they're a tough team. We played well but let a couple of tries in towards the end. We stuck to it and worked hard for each other to get the win.

DF: What were Tubbs' thoughts afterwards, what did he say to the lads?

GB: He was happy we won obviously but wasn't best pleased about the spell towards the end where we let them in. Overall, pretty happy with the win.

DF: How much has the thought of Wembley, as well as the slim chance of making the top five, spurred the boys on in the last month?

GB: It's given us a bit of a boost to go into the backend of the year. We have something to look forward to and something to strive for and hopefully we can nick a top five spot.

DF: Everyone is playing for a place in that match day squad next weekend. You have had a decent run in the side lately, how happy have you been with your performances?



GB: I have been pretty happy but just happy to be back in the team and playing. I have been going steady but hopefully I can stay in now.

DF: Having the likes of James Davey and Corey Makelimo to compete with must be a good challenge but one that you relish?

GB: Yeah it's class to have those two. Corey can play any position really and Jimmy is a really experienced hooker. To compete against them both does make you work a little bit harder.



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GREG BURNS

DF: How important is it to have that competition compared to last year when there wasn't as much?

GB: That is one of the good things last year as we have had strength in depth and nobody's position has ever been that safe. If you have a bad game, somebody is already chomping at the bit to get the shirt back.

DF: Irrespective of next weekend and making the top five, how important is it to end the season on a good note?

GB: There's four games left and they're all winnable. It'll be nice to finish the season off how we started it.

Thanks to all the players for their time this season - we will be back for more interviews in 2020!





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GETTING TO KNOW

Tightest Player?

James Davey is pretty tight I've heard, Paddy is too.

Favourite Film?

Anchorman

Rugby League Idol?

John Hale

Favourite TV Show?

Game of Thrones

Come Dine with Me – Meal you'd make & three guests?

I'd skip starter, have fish and chips for main and sticky toffee pudding for dessert.

I'd invite Alan Shearer, Will Ferrell and Alan Partridge.

Best RL Moment?

Playing alongside Oliver Davies.



Greg Burns

Number: 14
Position: Utility

Height: 5ft 7'
Weight: 82kg

Twitter:
N/A

Pointless or The Chase?

The Chase

Best Trainer?

I'd say Ryan Millar.

Worst Dressed?

Ryan Millar is smartly dressed but wears clothes that don't fit him.

Snapchat or Instagram?

Snapchat - don't have Instagram

City Break or Beach Holiday?

City Break

Amateur Club?

Hillsborough Hawks

TODAY'S TEAMS



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
1. Josh Guzdek	●	●	●
2. Ryan Millar	●	●	●
4. Jason Crookes	●	●	●
5. Ben Blackmore	●	●	●
6. Pat Walker	●	●	●
7. Anthony Thackeray	●	●	●
8. Pat Moran	●	●	●
9. James Davey	●	●	●
10. Matt James	●	●	●
11. Brad Knowles	●	●	●
12. Joel Farrell	●	●	●
13. Aaron Brown	●	●	●
14. Greg Burns	●	●	●
15. Oliver Davies	●	●	●
16. Corey Makelim	●	●	●
17. Shaun Pick	●	●	●
18. James Glover	●	●	●
19. Sonny Esselmont	●	●	●
21. Blake Broadbent	●	●	●
22. Paddy Burns	●	●	●
23. Rory Dixon	●	●	●
25. Lewis Taylor	●	●	●
26. Joslin Landu	●	●	●
29. Ben Hellewell	●	●	●
31. Nathan Mason	●	●	●

Referee: G. Hewer

Touch Judges: D.Sharpe & A.Gill

BARROW RAIDERS

T G DG

●	●	●	1. Tee Ritson
●	●	●	2. Stargroth Amean
●	●	●	3. Declan Hulme
●	●	●	5. Dean Cross
●	●	●	6. Jamie Dallimore
●	●	●	7. Lewis Charnock
●	●	●	8. Tom Walker
●	●	●	9. Nathan Mossop
●	●	●	11. Jono Smith
●	●	●	12. Jarrad Stack
●	●	●	13. Martin Aspinwall
●	●	●	14. Wartovo Puara
●	●	●	15. Dan Toal
●	●	●	16. Glenn Riley
●	●	●	17. Ryan Duffy
●	●	●	18. Luke Cresswell
●	●	●	19. Danny Morrow
●	●	●	20. Bradd Crellin
●	●	●	21. Tom Loxam
●	●	●	22. Ryan Johnson
●	●	●	23. Shane Toal
●	●	●	24. Jake Carter
●	●	●	25. Jordan Walne
●	●	●	26. Willie Minoga
●	●	●	27. Brett Carter

Match Comissioner: P. Cluskey

Time Keeper: P. Crashley



WIDNES VIKINGS

02/08/19

In an 1895 Cup Final dress rehearsal, Sheffield Eagles claimed a comfortable 30-10 victory over Widnes Vikings at the Olympic Legacy Park.

Anthony Thackeray starred with a brace of tries while Menzie Yere found his way to the try-line for the first time this season in an Eagles jersey.

Winger Ben Blackmore and Brad Knowles also got on the scoresheet for the hosts.

Rory Dixon and Yere came into the fold for Sheffield, replacing London Broncos duo Nathan Mason and Ben Hellewell who featured in the semi-final win over Batley Bulldogs.

It took six minutes for Sheffield to break the deadlock as Thackeray snatched an interception and fed Blackmore who had the pace to beat the onrushing defenders. Pat Walker converted.

Knowles was next over the try-line for the Eagles as Greg Burns played a pass to the prop who powered over from close range. Walker again on target.

Widnes weren't to be denied for the full half though. Ryan Ince capitalised on a big break from Macgraff Leuluai and the winger went over in the corner. Jack Owens couldn't convert as the Vikings went into the sheds 12-4 down.

The return of Yere came at a price for the visiting Vikings as he rolled back the years with a 50-metre break to halfway, and the next tackle saw Thackeray dummy his way past the defence to score. Walker goaled.

Ellis Robson reduced the arrears for Widnes with what would be their final try of the game. Owens converted for 18-10.

Just short of the hour mark came the Eagles' next try as they aimed to put the game to bed. A superb Aaron Brown break was supported by Thackeray who did the rest. Walker converted.

In the final quarter, Yere got on the end of a grubber kick to dot down and Walker converted once again.

A great result for the Eagles who travel to Halifax next Sunday, aiming to keep their top five dreams alive.



MATCH REPORT

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

30-10

**WIDNES
VIKINGS**

- 1. Josh Guzdek
- 2. Ryan Millar
- 3. Menzie Yere
- 27. Jacob Ogren
- 5. Ben Blackmore
- 6. Pat Walker
- 7. Anthony Thackeray
- 17. Shaun Pick
- 14. Greg Burns
- 11. Brad Knowles
- 12. Joel Farrell
- 15. Oliver Davies
- 13. Aaron Brown

INTERCHANGE

- 16. Corey Makelim
- 21. Blake Broadbent
- 23. Rory Dixon
- 22. Paddy Burns



**OFFICIAL
G. OOLAN**



**STADIUM
OLYMPIC LEGACY PARK**



**ATTENDANCE
772**

- 5. Jack Owens
- 2. Ryan Ince
- 25. Lloyd Roby
- 24. Keanan Shepherd
- 1. Olly Ashall-Bott
- 6. Danny Craven
- 21. Joe Lyons
- 26. Danny Norman
- 15. Jordan Johnstone
- 8. James Chapelhow
- 17. Sam Wilde
- 37. Ellis Robson
- 19. Brad Walker

INTERCHANGE

- 18. Ed Chapelhow
- 24. Josh Ganson
- 11. Harrison Hansen
- 16. MacGraff Leuluai



HALIFAX RLFC

11/08/19

Sheffield Eagles survived a late fightback from Halifax to claim a 20-18 victory at The Shay on Sunday afternoon.

The Eagles were 18-6 up at the break thanks to tries from Oliver Davies, Paddy Burns and Aaron Brown as well as three goals courtesy of Patch Walker.

Shaun Robinson scored Fax's only first half four-pointer, with Steve Tyrer goaling.

Walker's penalty goal after the re-start proved to be Sheffield's only points of the second period as Fax fought back with Scott Grix and Tyrer tries, the latter converting twice.

However, the Eagles held on for a good victory away from home which will lead them perfectly on to next weekend's home tie against Barrow Raiders.

Eagles boss Mark Aston named the same 17 who featured against Widnes Vikings at the Olympic Legacy Park last Friday.

Halifax struck first on 11 minutes as Grix and Tyrer linked up before Robinson had space in the corner to score. Tyrer converted.

Sheffield responded soon after as Greg



Burns took the ball into the heart of the Fax defence, creating a gap for Davies to exploit. Walker added the goal.

The Burns brothers combined as the visitors took the lead. Hooker Greg found back-rower Paddy who dotted down next to the sticks. Walker again on target.

With the clock ticking down to half-time, Sheffield notched their third score of the afternoon through Brown.

The ex-Ram crashed over from close range as the Fax defence were powerless to stop the forward. Walker converted.

On 54 minutes, Walker had the kicking tee out once again and extended Sheffield's lead to three scores with his fourth goal of the afternoon.

Halifax do have the quality to turn the screw when they need to and they started to do just that in the final quarter.

Tries from Grix and Tyrer set up a nervy finish but Sheffield held on for victory, their second on the bounce in the Championship.

MATCH REPORT

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

20-18

**HALIFAX
RLFC**

1. Josh Guzdek
2. Ryan Millar
3. Menzie Yere
27. Jacob Ogren
5. Ben Blackmore
6. Pat Walker
7. Anthony Thackeray
17. Shaun Pick
14. Greg Burns
11. Brad Knowles
12. Joel Farrell
15. Oliver Davies
13. Aaron Brown

INTERCHANGE

16. Corey Makelim
21. Blake Broadbent
23. Rory Dixon
22. Paddy Burns



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**ATTENDANCE
1205**

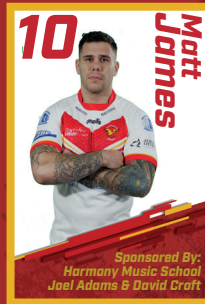
30. Scott Grix
2. Shaun Robinson
3. Steve Tyrer
20. James Saltanstall
21. Conor McGrath
6. Scott Murrell
23. James Woodburn Hall
33. Keegan Hirst
14. Brandon Moore
10. Jacob Fairbank
25. Liam Cooper
12. Ed Barber
16. Kevin Larroyer

INTERCHANGE


7. Ben Johnston
8. Dan Fleming
22. Conor Davies
17. Ben Kavanagh



PLAYER PROFILES



15 **Oliver Davies**




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16 **Corey Makelim**



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17 **Shaun Pick**



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18 **James Glover**



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19 **Sonny Esslemont**



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21 **Blake Broadbent**



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22 **Paddy Burns**



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23 **Rory Dixon**



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25 **Lewis Taylor**



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26 **Joslin Landu**



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VIEW FROM THE PARK



We're less than a week away from Wembley but we have a job to do today as we welcome Barrow Raiders to the Olympic Legacy Park.

We come into the game off the back of three consecutive wins in all competitions so we seem to be in good nick, while the Raiders need to win every game left to survive in the Championship.

They are also without ex-Eagle Jake Spedding who departed the club for Featherstone Rovers earlier this week.

Spedding played well against the Eagles at the Summer Bash so that's one less key figure to worry about but we know Tubbs will have Sheffield up for this one, especially with the 1895 Cup just around the corner.

Coming into this after beating Halifax away will have given the lads confidence that they can grind out wins, as well as win convinc-

ingly as they did against Widnes Vikings the week before.

Tubbs named an unchanged 17 for Sunday's game and he may well do the same again tonight. It is great to see local lads Greg Burns, Paddy Burns and Blake Broadbent put on the Red and Gold, all three had great games against Fax with the Burns brothers providing two assists and a try respectively.

Of course it's getting to the time where all the players are raring to be out on the field and leaving nothing out there.

Wembley is a massive carrot to dangle in front of the players and they will be itching to be selected against the Vikings in a week's time.

Tonight is a perfect opportunity for those who feel like they've been on the fringes of the squad throughout the year, to put in a good shift and show Tubbs, Keith and Ged why they should get the nod ahead of anybody else. The top five may be out of reach, albeit not mathematically, but the importance of finishing the season well on all fronts is massive as we head into a big pre-season.

Enjoy the game this afternoon and make sure to cheer the Eagles on to what will hopefully be another victory, and our third over the Raiders this year!

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EAGLES STAT PACK

31 seasons ago on 11th September 1988 our perennial competitors and friends from Cumbria came to Owlerton for one of the closest and lowest scoring matches between the two sides.

Sheffield Eagles 11 Barrow 11. Eagles hold on for point Sheffield Eagles escaped with a point from a hard-fought contest thanks to a missed drop kick by Barrow's Steve McGuire in the closing seconds. Barrow would have won but for fullback Steve Tickle being strangely out of form with his goal kicking.

The injury-hit Eagles gave a debut game to ex-Bramley forward Graham Idle and, after the break, brought on new signing Steve Evans from Bradford Northern.

But he was starved of possession, particularly when Mark Gamson moved to fullback after Chris McDermott was sent off for a wild retaliatory kick after appearing to be stamped in the chest. With their numbers depleted for the last 17 minutes, the Eagles did well to hold the eager Barrow forwards after Steve Clayton had levelled the scores with 49th minute try which Dean Marwood converted.

The Eagles deservedly snatched the lead in the 17th minute when Gamson sent Andy Young away for a try between the posts. Mark Aston converted as well as adding two penalties and a drop goal by the interval".

Eagles scorers: Tries: Andy Young Goal: Mark Aston 3; DG: Mark Aston 1

Stats catch up: 4th August 2013 - Misi Taulapapa - 100 Club member #41; 19th August 2018 Simon Brown - 100 Club member #48.; 31st August 2003 saw John Bruce - # 25 and

Gavin Brown - # 24 who had both started their Eagles careers against Lancashire Lynx at Victory Park in Dec.1999, with both scoring on their debuts and they also both scored in their 100th games. v Gateshead Thunder.

And finally for the last home game of the season, a pat on the back for the 30 players, including loanees and dual reg players who have, in my opinion, been worthy wearers of the Red and Gold. Special mention must go to those players who have become

centurions during this season: Matt James, James Davey, Ben Blackmore, Pat Walker, a special mention for Menzie Yere who is close to joining the 300 Club (at the time of writing he is on 290 games), We have Greg Burns way past his 50, Oliver Davies and Shaun Pick around 50, Ryan Millar who is closing in on 80 (again at the time of writing). Not forgetting all the others who have played their part in this seasons progress with their try scoring and a special mention to Pat Walker for his fantastic record of approx 80% kicking success.

By Nigel Borham





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